

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00735 171827Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OES-03 IO-10 EURE-00 SAM-01 AID-05

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P R 171608Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOTIY 6297

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR,US,VN,VS

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON VIETNAM

REF: MOSCOW 0649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PRAVDA JANUARY 16 COMMENTRAY BY AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTATOR
YURI ZHUKOV (REFTEL) EMPHASIZED THAT THE LATEST CRISES
IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH ARE ATTEMPTS, YET AGAIN, BY THE
"PUPPETS" AND THEIR U.S. SUPPORTERS TO SQUEEZE MORE MONEY
OUT OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. ZHUKOV QUOTED A NEW YORK TIMES
ARTICLE CITING AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS
IN SAIGON AS ASSERTING THAT THE FALL OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00735 171827Z

WAS THE RESULT OF CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL TO PROVIDE MORE

MILITARY AID TO THE THIEU GOVERNMENT. ZHUKOV ALSO CITED A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF JANUARY 8 AND CINCPAC GAYLOR THAT A POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR NEW U.S. INTERVENTION IN INDOCHINA.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE RECENT FIGHTING, ZHUKOV ECHOED OTHER RECENT SOVIET COMMENTARY THAT THE "LIBERATION FORCES" WERE ONLY REACTING TO SAIGON'S ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND ITS AREAS OF CONTROL. HE TOOK THE ARGUMENT A LONG STEP FURTHER, HOWEVER, BY CLAIMING THAT THE NEWLY-SEIZED AREAS IN PHUOC LONG HAD BEEN BASES FROM WHICH THE SAIGON FORCES HAD ATTACKED "LIBERATEE" AREA.

3. THROUGHOUT THE ARTICLE, ZHUKOV REFERRED TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS THE BASIS FOR A PROPER SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. HE BLAMED SAIGON AND THE U.S. *94 ;89)-58,& 5#3 -&433.3,5, SAYING THAT SAIGON COULD NOT CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND ITS CONTROL IF THE U.S. AIDED STRICTLY BY THE LIMITATIONS ON ARMS SUPPLIES SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT. HE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT THE AGREEMENT CALLS NOT ONLY FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES, BUT ALSO (BOLD FACE) FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS SETTLEMENT, HE SPELLED OUT SPECIFIES THE PARTICIPATION OF THREE POLITICAL FORCES.

4. COMMENT: OTHER RECENT SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS THE PROPER BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CONTAINED AN ARTICLE CALLED "THE REAL PROBLEMS ON INDOCHINA," BY YU. YURTSEV WHICH OUTLINED THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ASSERTED THAT THE CONTINUED FIGHTING IS THE FAULT OF SAIGON, ALONG WITH THE SUPPORT OF "INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES IN THE U.S." OTHERWISE THE SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOT GIVEN UNDUE ATTENTION TO THE RECENT UPSURGE IN FIGHTING.

5. ZHUKOV'S ARTICLE IS THE MOST PROMINENT AND BY FAR THE MOST EXPLICIT OF RECENT SOVIET COMMENTARIES IN BLAMING THE U.S. FOR THE GVN'S ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00735 171827Z

MENT. HIS ALLEGATION THAT THE CURRENT CRISES ARE, IN EFFECT, CONCOCTED IN ORDER TO GET MORE U.S. AID, IS NEW. HIS TREATMENT OF THE ISSUES THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT HIS ARTICLE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT REFUTING THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF JANUARY 13. STOESEL

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